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OO RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHLH RUEHNEH RUEHPW
DE RUEHNE #2451 3411308
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 071308Z DEC 09 ZEL
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8824
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8130
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7064
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3817
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2023
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6609
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 8669
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8711

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 002451

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADDING SENSITIVE

DRL/IRF
IO/HR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [UN](#) [IN](#)
SUBJECT: INDIA LIKELY TO ABSTAIN ON UNGA DEFAMATION OF
RELIGIONS FINAL VOTE

REF: A. SECSTATE 122638
[B](#). NEW DELHI 02176
[C](#). NEW DELHI 002342

[1](#). (U) PolCouns conveyed Ref A demarche points to Ministry of External Affairs UN Economic and Social (UNES) Division Joint Secretary Rajiv Misra on December 1, emphasizing the importance we place on India's support in voting against the OIC-sponsored UNGA resolution calling for criminal bans on speech deemed to be offensive. In a December 4 conversation, UNES Division Under Secretary Abhishek Verma declined substantive comment but intimated that India's position on the issue had not changed in recent weeks. In an October 23 conversation about the resolution (Ref B), Verma explained that even though India opposes the resolution because of its focus on Islam, the GOI would likely abstain on such a resolution rather than vote against it.

[2](#). (SBU) Comment: The Indian Government aims to stay in good favor with NAM countries which presumably would support India's candidacy for a non-permanent seat during October 2010 UN Security Council elections (Ref C). Therefore, despite India's opposition to the substance of the OIC-sponsored resolution, we think it likely that India will continue to abstain. End Comment.
ROEMER